

225th

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF MEDFIELD,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1, 1876.

TOGETHER WITH THE

SELECTMEN'S REPORT; TOWN CLERK'S REPORT; REPORT OF  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND OTHER STATISTICS.

S. J. SPEAR, PRINTER, MEDFIELD.



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# TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1875.



*Town Clerk.*

CHARLES C. SEWALL.

*Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor.*

B. F. SHUMWAY, HAMLET WIGHT, A. B. PARKER.

*Assessors.*

B. F. SHUMWAY, A. B. PARKER, CHARLES HAMANT.

*Treasurer.*

*Collector.*

*Auditor.*

ISAAC FISKE. R. A. BATTELLE. CHAS. HAMANT.

*Constables.*

CHAS. HAMANT, H. F. BULLARD, R. W. SHERMAN.

*School Committee.*

*For Three Years.*

*For Two Years.*

*For One Year.*

C. C. SEWALL, J. M. R. EATON, SAMUEL ELLIS,  
J. B. HALE. A. M. CRANE. WM. F. GUILD.

*Surveyors of Highways.*

HAMLET WIGHT, H. P. TABOR, A. B. PARKER,  
C. H. RUSSELL, J. H. GOULD. WM. F. GUILD.

*Fire Wards.*

J. H. GOULD, FRANCIS RHODES, CHAS. HAMANT.

*Measurer of Wood and Sealer of Weights and Measures.*

THOMAS L. BARNEY.

*Weighers.*

T. L. BARNEY, R. E. SHERMAN.

*Fence Viewers.*

T. L. BARNEY, ELIJAH THAYER, HAMLET WIGHT.

*Police.*

E. T. EVERETT, B. WILSON, GEORGE D. HAMANT,  
WM. P. HEWINS, A. JOHNSON.

*Board of Health.*

DR. J. H. RICHARDSON, J. B. HALE, JAS. M. HEWINS.



## SELECTMEN'S REPORT.



THE Selectmen of Medfield present the following Report of Receipts and Expenditures from February 1, 1875 to February 1, 1876.

### RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury, February 1, 1875,	\$6,256 39
Rec'd balance of Corporation tax for 1876,	210 21
Cash for School book,	75
"    pears,	2 50
Corporation tax for 1875,	684 60
"    "    "	191 82
State Aid,	345 96
Bank Tax, 1875,	1,044 77
"    "	11 66
of G. A. R. Post, as rent,	25 00
Taxes for 1871, in full,	61 92
"    1872, in full,	31 07
"    1873, in full,	27 68
"    1874,	1,268 65
"    1875,	10,188 00
Rent of Town Hall,	179 75
"    Stores,	455 19
Interest on Taxes, 1871,	12 47
"    "    1872,	10 77
"    "    1873,	4 90
"    "    1874,	69 56

Rec'd Income of State School Fund,	232 48
Interest on Town " "	228 99
Dog Licenses,	109 55
Overseers of Poor,	100 00
For Hay sold from Cemetery,	5 00
Butter from Town Farm,	206 58
Cash received for License,	5 00
Cash received from Overseers,	12 28
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	\$21,983 50

## EXPENDITURES.

### CARE OF SCHOOL-HOUSES, FUEL, &c.

#### CENTRE.

Paid E. A. Rhodes, care of house,	25 25
E. B. Coddling, " "	24 75
L. M. Richards, removing ashes,	2 00
Gould & Stevens for coal,	119 00
J. A. Newell for charcoal,	7 50
E. T. Everett, care of houses,	19 50
	<hr/>
	\$198 00

#### NORTH.

Paid A. W. Wight, care of house,	\$31 15
H. Wight for wood and cutting,	68 25
Mrs. Tobin, cleaning house,	2 02
John Williams, cutting wood,	3 00
Parker's Express for supplies,	98
	<hr/>
	105 40

#### SOUTH.

Paid J. R. Smith for wood,	\$11 00
Wm. F. Guild, "	13 00
G. M. Gilmore, care of house and cutting wood,	23 75
	<hr/>
	\$47 75



Paid for exchange in Geographies.	\$68 65
J. M. R. Eaton for books, apparatus and obtain- ing teachers,	16 82
I. Fiske's bill for sundries,	19 00
	<hr/>
	\$104 47
	<hr/>
Total,	\$455 62

## TEACHING SCHOOLS.

## CENTRE.

Paid Miss E. Emerson,	\$410 00
" J. S. Wardwell,	315 00
" O. B. Young,	44 00
" S. J. Woods.	390 00
Mr. W. E. Marshall,	500 00
	<hr/>
	\$1659 00

## NORTH.

Paid Miss S. H. Wight,	\$400 00
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## SOUTH.

Paid Miss E. F. Crocker,	\$160 00
J. C. Whiting,	88 00
	<hr/>
	\$248 00
	<hr/>
Total,	\$2307 00

To Balance due Schools on settlement, Jan. 31, 1875,	\$750 82
Appropriations,	2000 00
Dog Licenses,	109 55
State Fund,	232 48
School Fund,	228 99
	<hr/>
	\$3321 84
Expended for schools, 1875,	2762 62
	<hr/>
Balance due for Schools, Feb. 1, 1876,	\$559 22

## REPAIRS OF SCHOOL-HOUSES.

## CENTRE.

Paid L. Babcock for stock and labor,	\$7 17
Parker's Express for sundries,	7 25
A. A. Gilbert, repairing lightning rod,	3 00
C. T. Frost, repairing pump,	4 30
C. T. Frost for new pump,	18 50
H. P. Bruce for stock and labor,	5 25
Mead & Mason, " "	37 90
S. R. Maker. " "	1 00
D. Hoisington, " "	48 37
School Committee, "	32 73
	<hr/>
	\$165 47

## NORTH.

Paid C. T. Frost for pump,	\$13 50
C. T. Frost for repairs,	4 98
H. P. Bruce, " "	35 05
School Committee for repairs,	21 00
D. Hoisington for funnel,	1 75
Parker's Express for sundries,	98
J. G. Wight, stock and labor,	27 35
H. H. Wight, window curtains,	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$105 61
Paid Insurance on South school-house,	22 60
	<hr/>
Total for repairs,	\$293 68

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid Johnson Bros. for refreshments for engine company,	80
Parker's Express,	\$9 00
Fred M. Smith for 30 engine men,	60 00
E. T. Everett, care of engine and supplies,	15 52
Ladders,	25 28
Couplings,	1 00

Paid Cushman & Baker for repairs on engine,	50
Hunneman & Co. balance of bill,	78 90
	<hr/>
	\$191 00

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid B. F. Shumway for services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	\$123 00
Hamlet Wight for services as Selectman and Over- seer of Poor,	50 00
A. B. Parker for services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	100 00
J. M. R. Eaton for services on School Committee,	65 00
C. Hamant for services as Assessor, 1875,	52 00
C. Hamant for services as Auditor, 2 years,	5 00
	<hr/>
	\$395 00

## EXPENSES OF TOWN HOUSE.

Paid Mead & Mason for repairs.	\$40 60
Cushman & Baker,    “	1 25
S. Johnson, setting glass,	2 25
J. E. Barney for chimney tops,	51 48
D. Hoisington,	3 37
S. Johnson, care of house,	76 05
Gould & Stevens for coal,	36 45
Parker's Express,	6 13
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	\$217 58

## PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Cash paid Trustees, balance of appropriation,	\$494 00
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## PAUPERS OUT OF ALMSHOUSE.

Paid B. J. Babcock for funeral expenses of children of G. M. Gilmore.	\$31 65
State Lunatic Asylum for board of J. W. Coltman,	183 16

Paid for Coal for G. M. Gilmore,	3 00
Dr. Richardson, medical attendance on family of G. M. Gilmore,	40 00
Aid for Mrs. T. Hunt,	15 00
	<hr/>
	\$272 81

## ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Paid abatement of taxes, 1871,	\$12 00
“ “ 1872,	17 73
“ “ 1874,	26 75
“ “ 1875,	27 07
	<hr/>
	\$83 55

## NOTES AND INTEREST.

Paid Notes,	\$4,389 08
Interest,	1,893 76

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid H. P. Tabor, clearing roads of snow,	\$49 60
A. B. Parkèr, “ “ “	22 90
Joel Morse, repairs on Orchard Street,	8 00
Joseph Bailey, “ “ “	22 20
C. Russell for grading “ “	76 00
Wm. F. Guild, clearing roads of snow,	20 30
H. Wight, “ “ “	64 25
C. Russell, “ “ “	16 20
J. H. Gould, “ “ “	40 20
Selectmen for work on Pine Street,	491 89
George Morey for covering stones for culvert,	16 50
H. N. Clark for lumber for bridge,	26 33
H. P. Tabor for plank for bridge,	4 96
	<hr/>
	\$859 33

## HIGHWAY SURVEYORS.

Paid A. B. Parker,	\$210 00
Wm. F. Guild,	200 00
J. H. Gould,	188 35
H. P. Tabor,	202 33
H. Wight,	208 59
C. H. Russell,	208 10
	<hr/>
	\$1217 37

## STATE AID.

Paid Mary A. Howard,	\$96 00
Mary A. Kingsbury,	48 00
Mary Knapp,	40 00
Eliza Hardy,	44 00
	<hr/>
	\$228 00

## INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid C. Hamant, care of School Fund two years,	\$10 00
“ “ collecting taxes in full, 1872,	15 42
“ “ bal. corporation tax,	5 00
B. J. Babcock, returning deaths,	4 50
“ “ for coffin rests,	5 00
S. J. Spear, printing Town Reports, Order book, &c.,	73 00
Com. on Town House, bal. due for rebuilding,	429 96
Geo. H. Ellis, printing 500 copies “ Dedication of Town Hall,”	340 00
Geo. H. Ellis, printing Tax bills,	4 25
Parker’s Express,	9 00
C. T. Frost, repairing pump,	1 75
Tolman & Russell, for hearse,	575 00
Freight on hearse,	11 30
Fire and Police badges,	7 40
R. A. Battelle, collecting taxes, 1874.	100 00
Cushman & Baker, runners for hearse,	25 00
Walpole Tax.	5 27
W. F. Abell, care of Town clock,	25 00

Paid Medway Tax,	6 02
Waldo Colburn, Esq., on account of suit brought against B. H. & E. R. R., by Centre School District,	89 00
E. A. Wheeler, freight and express,	5 46
John Kingsbury, mowing cemetery,	20 00
B. F. Shumway, perambulating Town lines,	7 50
Jas. Hewins, Esq. for legal advice,	3 00
H. P. Bruce, maintaining watering place,	3 00
State Tax,	1200 00
H. Wight, perambulating Town lines,	7 50
Cost of Court in relation to Pine Street,	23 52
I. Fiske for stationery,	24 38
Bennet Wilson, services as police officer,	8 00
H. Hamant, hay from cemetery,	5 00
	<hr/>
	\$3049 23

## ALMSHOUSE.

Amount paid by Treasurer, as follows :

Paid B. J. Babcock for bread,	\$40 15
Gould & Stevens for grain,	282 80
Wm. Adams, salary in full for the year ending March 31, 1875,	450 00
Gould & Stevens for coal,	48 08
Overseers for groceries,	96 50
Johnson Bros. for merchandise,	11 71
Wm. Adams, salary in part,	375 00
E. A. Wheeler for ice,	15 00
Cushman & Baker for repairs,	11 65
C. T. Frost for pump,	19 50
A. B. Parker for shorts,	48 51
T. L. Barney for merchandise,	132 68
J. H. Richardson for medical attendance,	11 00
F. D. Hamant, balance on cows,	80 00
D. Hoisington, bill of sundries,	3 95
I. Fiske, merchandise,	166 44
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	\$1792 97

## RECAPITULATION.

Paid Town Officers,	\$395 00
Abatement of Taxes,	83 55
Teaching Schools,	2,307 00
Care of, and Fuel for School-houses,	455 62
Repairs of School-houses,	293 68
Public Library,	494 00
Notes,	4,389 08
Interest,	1,893 76
Roads and Bridges,	859 33
Highways,	1,217 37
Expenses of Town House,	217 58
Fire Department,	191 00
Incidental expenses,	3,049 23
State Aid,	228 00
Almshouse Department,	1,792 97
Paupers out of Almshouse,	272 81
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	\$18,139 98

## RESOURCES.

Balance in Treasury, Feb. 1, 1876,	\$3,848 49
Due from Taxes, 1874,	8 00
“ “ “ 1875,	1,447 44
“ for State Aid,	240 00
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	\$5,543 93

## LIABILITIES.

Due on Notes to individuals,	15,068 20
Due Wm. Adams, balance of salary to Feb. 1, 1876,	125 00
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	\$15,193 20
Liabilities exceed resources,	\$9,649 27



I have examined the foregoing accounts and find them correct and accompanied by the proper vouchers.

CHARLES HAMANT,  
*Auditor.*

MEDFIELD, FEB. 1, 1876.

### REMARKS.

It is with pleasure, in presenting the 225th Annual Report, that we congratulate the Town upon its increasing prosperity. Never in the memory of the present Board, or possibly since the settlement of the town, have the citizens exhibited so much public spirit or expended so much for private buildings. Let the town be liberal in its provisions and its future prosperity is assured.

#### ROADS.

Owing to the heavy rains last Spring, Orchard Street was badly washed, requiring the sum of \$106.00 to repair it safe for public travel. There was a complaint entered, against the town, upon the bad condition of Pine St. At a meeting the Town voted \$500.00 to be expended under the direction of the Selectmen. There was \$491.89 expended, and we have satisfied the Court that the road is of suitable width and in fair condition for the amount of travel.

In accordance with the instruction of the Town we recommend the sum of Eleven Thousand and Five Hundred Dollars for the current expenses of the ensuing year, to be appropriated as follows:

For repairing Town ways, Highways and Bridges,	\$1,200 00
Pauper Expenses,	1,000 00
Support of Schools,	2,000 00
General expenses,	1,500 00
Debt of the Town,	2,000 00
Interest on same,	1,600 00
State Tax. (estimated.)	1,200 00
County Tax.     "	1,000 00

\$11,500 00



In conformity to law, we report that all the Guide Boards, standing at the date of last report, have been supported on the highways.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

B. F. SHUMWAY,  
HAMLET WIGHT,  
A. B. PARKER.

*Selectmen of Medfield.*

MEDFIELD, FEB. 1, 1876.



## REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.



### INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

AT THE ALMSHOUSE, FEB. 1, 1876.

9 Cows, \$500.00; 2 Horses, 200.00,	700 00
24 fowls, 15.00; 7 swine, 56.00,	71 00
1 hay wagon, 45.00; covered wagon, 25.00,	70 00
Two-horse cart, 30.00; Two-horse wagon, 120.00,	150 00
1 express wagon, 85.00; 1 ox wagon, 20.00,	105 00
1 horse rake, 40.00; sleigh, 15.00,	55 00
2 sleds, 20.00; 1 mowing machine, 35.00,	55 00
4 ploughs and 2 cultivators,	50 00
2 ox yokes, 5.00; 2 stake, 1 log, 3 draught chains, 4.00,	9 00
Hay cutter and feed box,	10 00
1 pair double harnesses, 40.00; single harness, 12.00,	52 00
1 harrow, 3 ladders, 11.00; 5 shovels, spade, crowbar, 6.	17 00
Bog hoe, pick, adze, 2.25; 2 bill-hooks and hatchet, 3.00,	5 25
2 cranberry rakes, and screen,	6 00
5 scythes and snathes and 4 axes,	8 00
Saw, shave and rake, 3.00; cross-cut saw, 4.00,	7 00

5 hoes and iron bar, 3.00; grindstone, 8.00,	\$11 00
7 hayforks, 6.00; 2 potatoe diggers, 1.25; 2 tubs, 2.00	9 25
1 brass kettle, 5.00; 3 beef barrels, 4.50; tub, .50,	10 00
3 stone jars, 1.50; 1 churn, 7.00; 2 cook stoves, 25.00,	33 50
3 coal stoves, 17.00; 1 clothes wringer, 9.00,	26 00
62 milk pans, 16.50; 2 water pots, 3.00,	19 50
3 wood saws and horse, 4.00; 16 grain bags, 4.50,	8 50
2 hammers, beetle and 5 wedges,	2 50
4 augurs, 1 pruning knife, 3.75; 2 hand rakes, 1.50,	5 25
5 butter boxes and bowl, 4.25; 4 cider barrels, 5.00,	9 25
2 corn cutters, 1 drag rake,	2 00
4 manure forks, 4.00; 1 meat bench, 1.00,	5 00
25 flour barrels, 4.00; 1 set pulley blocks and rope, 3.00,	7 00
20 cords wood, 100.00; posts and rails, 15.00,	115 00
Fountain pump, 10.00; washing machine, 10.50,	20 50
75 bush. corn, 60.00; 10 tons English hay, 240.00,	300 00
9 tons meadow hay, 100.00; 1-2 ton oat fodder, 8.00,	108 00
1 ton corn fodder, 8.00; 100 bush. potatoes, 70.00,	78 00
30 bush. small potatoes, 7.50; 20 bush. turnips, 7.00,	14 50
1 1-2 bush. beets, 1.00; 50 heads of cabbage, 4.00,	5 00
2 bush. beans, 5.00; 2-3 bbl. of flour, 7.50,	12 50
15 lbs. lard, 2.50; 200 lbs. pork, 30.00,	32 50
175 lbs. beef, 17.50; 75 lbs. ham, 11.00,	28 50
10 lbs. butter, 3.50; 1 1-2 bbls. cider, 7.50,	11 00
12 brooms, 6.00; 2 brushes, 2.00,	8 00
1 1-4 tons coal, 10.50; 1 3-4 tons shorts, 42.00,	52 50
Cash on hand,	16 36

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\$2,221 36

### RECEIPTS.

Cash in hands of Overseers on settlement, as per last report,	\$2 85
For Butter,	24 01
Filling bed,	25
Potatoes,	1 00
Use of horse and wagon,	62 05
Board and lodging,	55 48
Rags and old iron,	1 94

For Hide and tallow,	\$5 25
9 calves,	107 64
Fowls,	18 01
Sow and pigs,	30 00
Hay,	34 35
Milk,	37 75
Services of bull,	18 50
T. L. Smith's bill,	8 36
Butter,	206 58
Eggs,	5 04
3 hogs,	94 05
139 lbs. beef,	13 90
Hide and tallow,	5 68
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	\$732 69

## PAYMENTS.

Paid for grinding corn,	\$3 44
Tin ware,	18 54
Hay cutter,	9 00
Washing machine,	10 50
Cultivator,	9 90
Sundry tools,	4 40
Bread,	18 75
Salt and fresh fish,	28 72
Blacksmithing,	16 60
Filing saws,	90
Repairing harnesses,	4 80
Curing hams,	1 70
2 hogsheads and meat barrel,	3 00
Butchering hogs,	2 50
Groceries,	10 36
Bill of sundries,	6 55
Clothing,	1 80
Repairing shoes,	2 20
Cleaning well,	3 00
Meat bill,	16 72
1 bbl. superphosphate,	7 15

Paid for tomato and cabbage plants,	\$2 70
Storing hay,	3 00
Seed oats and barley seeds and bags,	17 60
Seed potatoes,	16 35
Bag of salt,	2 50
Vinegar,	2 80
Two dollars furnished S. Allen,	2 00
Balance of meat bill,	169 99
By Town Treasurer, \$1,417.97, less \$100 refunded,	1,317 97

Total Payments,	\$1,545 45
By receipts,	732 69

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\$812 76

Lost in appraisal for last year,	\$260 58
Due Wm. Adams to Feb. 1, 1876,	125 00
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	\$385 58

Meals furnished tramps,	\$88 80
Cash in hands of Overseers,	16 36
	<hr/>
	\$105 16

280 42

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Total expenses,	\$1,093 18
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Average number of Paupers, 6. Cost per week, \$3.50.

PAUPERS IN ALMSHOUSE, FEB. 1, 1876.

Silas Allen, aged 81 years.	Amy Turner, aged 88 years.
Harriet Leland, " 84 "	Arthur Bailey, " 21 "
Mary Peters, " 87 "	George Hunt, " 12 "

Pauper expenses out of Almshouse, \$272.81.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. SHUMWAY,  
HAMLET WIGHT,  
A. B. PARKER,

*Overseers of the Poor.*

## MEDFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY.



### TRUSTEES' REPORT.

THE present report is intended to include the results of our administration since January 8, 1874, when the original Library, which had been established with so much labor and effort by the citizens of the town, was almost wholly destroyed by fire.

This loss was a severe blow and was keenly and deeply felt by all classes, and those particularly who had enjoyed its privileges and benefits, as though something had been taken from their homes.

The inestimable value of a well organized and patronized Free Public Library, its healthy mental stimulus and good moral influence upon the public mind, is a fact fixed beyond a doubt or question and need not here be dwelt upon; and after the destruction of the old Library there was such a unanimous wish for its restoration, with a generous response on the part of citizens and friends, that the Trustees felt there was urgent need of such an institution, and as soon as possible took measures for its reorganization. We found the only books remaining were in the hands of the readers, which amounted to three hundred and fifty volumes, and funds in the treasury amounting to \$82.82. We here acknowledge our thanks to Mr. T. L. Barney for his kindness and generosity in furnishing rooms for the use of the Library and also to Messrs. Geo. Cummings, J. J. Adams, W. Gammel Mrs. Farwell and others for their pecuniary assistance, and also to the Messrs. Allen for a large number of valuable volumes.

We were thus enabled to purchase new books, and in a short space of time the New Library was opened to the public.

In January, 1875 through the liberality of the Town, another room in the rebuilt Town House was appropriated for the Library, larger, more tasteful and better adapted than the original, and now, through the generosity of friends, is adorned with pictures, statuary, articles of historical value and natural history, cabinet of minerals &c., that make it a place of resort both attractive and instructive.

The shelves are now nearly as well filled as before the fire and the books have been selected with care and with reference to the wants of the public, and all are of intrinsic value.

It is intended that every book shall be examined and none placed upon the shelves that can in any way exert a pernicious influence.

The financial statement of the Treasurer shows that the entire receipts since Jan. 8, 1874 from gifts and appropriations have been \$1,806.89. Expenditures, \$1,426.84; leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, \$380.05.

The Library has grown, by donation and purchase, from three hundred and fifty to fourteen hundred and thirty besides several hundred volumes and pamphlets not numbered. From the report of the Librarian we learn that the whole number of volumes issued in this time has been fourteen thousand, five hundred and eighty. In 1873, 5,500. In 1875, 7,080.

The hours of the day for Library days have been appointed with especial reference to meet the convenience of the public.

No catalogue has been prepared, but lists of books furnished, for the reason that there were so few books at first and so many were being constantly added, but now one will soon be prepared.

As a general rule, with some few exceptions, the books have been well used, still a good many volumes soon need rebinding, which makes some additional expense. To make a Public Library useful and keep up a healthy interest, there needs to be new books constantly added, and we believe the town cannot make a better investment for its citizens than to appropriate, annually, a stated sum for the support of the Library, in the way of purchasing books or otherwise; and we earnestly recommend and advise the Town to appropriate a stated sum for the support of this institution.



We cannot close this report without expressing our obligations to one member of this board, Mr. Geo. Cummings, for his constant oversight and care of the Library, his devotion to its interests and welfare, and his generosity in its support. We feel that if the same interest and devotion was manifested by all its friends it would soon compare favorably with any institution of its kind in the State.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT.

### RECEIPTS.

At the time of the destruction of the original Library by fire, there was in the hands of the Treasurer,	\$82 82
Subsequent receipts have been from :	
Lecture Committee, proceeds of Lectures, 1873,	15 20
Concert by the Ladies' "Orpheus Club,"	51 72
Received from contributions obtained by the exertions of Dr. J. H. Richardson,	259 00
Received from the sale of books.	4 15
Donated by John J. Adams, Esq.	250 00
"    Wm. Gammel, Esq.	50 00
"    Geo. Cummings, Esq.	600 00
Received of Town Treasurer, balance of appropriation,	494 00
	\$1,806 89

### EXPENDITURES.

The following payments have been made since the fire :

Paid for one Ledger,	\$2 40
Insurance,	43 50
Nichols & Hall, for books,	770 08
Geo. H. Ellis,            "	58 96
Congregational Publishing Society for books,	87 92
Rev. J. M. R. Eaton,            "	3 60
J. B. Hale for pictures, statuary, &c.,	195 26
For a Sign,	1 50
S. J. Spear for printing.	17 00

Paid Babcock for birds mounted,	10 87	
Express,	75	
Librarian,	200 00	
Geo. Cummings for books,	35 00	
		<hr/>
		\$1,426 84
Balance in hands of Treasurer, Feb. 1, 1876.		\$380 05

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

Received for fines,	\$21 50	
“ from Mrs. Farwell,	50 00	\$71 50
Paid for clock,	\$12 00	
for books,	51 50	\$63 50
		<hr/>
Balance in hands of Librarian,		\$8 00

Respectfully submitted,

For the Trustees,

J. H. RICHARDSON.

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## REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

BIRTHS IN MEDFIELD. DURING THE YEAR, 1875.

DATE.	NAMES.
January 31	Laura Eliza Myers.
March 6	Henry Carroll Jenness.
“ 16	Arthur Elmer Morrill.
“ 17	Amos Hale Mason.
“ —	Thomas Jefferson Stevens.
April 28	Abby B. Fitzgerald.
June 7	Gracie Miller.
“ 9	Grace E. Ferguson.
“ 28	Daisy Evangeline Curtis.
July 29	Julia Maney.
August 24	Henry Edward Falvey.
September 21	James McGrory.
October 28	Mary Elizabeth Brennan.
“ 29	{ Edmund Howe Lincoln. } <i>Twins.</i> { Phillip Curtis Lincoln. }
December 6	Frank Irving Howe.
“ 8	Mabel May Morrill.

### MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES,

REGISTERED IN MEDFIELD. DURING THE YEAR 1875, BETWEEN,

James F. Carey and Nellie Talbot.  
 George W. Morrill and Mary E. Adams.  
 John F. Hamilton and Idalette Clark.  
 Lewis L. Adams and Nora Heath.  
 Charles Warner and Lizzie L. Weiker.  
 George F. Mayhew and Mary F. Hewins.  
 George W. Snow and Clara Corbette.  
 Joseph W. Riele and Adella C. Parsons.  
 Elisha P. Bishop and Abby A. Hartshorn.  
 Weber Sawyer and Caroline E. Kendall.

## RECORD OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1875.

DATE.	NAMES.	YEARS.	MOS.	DAYS.
Jan. 23	Samuel Green,	85	11	
Feb. 1	Charles R. Gilmore,	5	10	
“ 11	Charles Johnson,	5		
Mar. 6	Nellie F. Gilmore,	10	3	12
“ —	Charles E. Richards.			
April 3	Maria C. Bowers.	50		
“ 20	George Beatty,	13	1	
May 19	Julia Lambert,	76		
“ 26	Daniel P. Russell,	68		
“ 27	William Horton,	72		
Aug. 7	Samuel W. Cozzens,	75		
Sept. 8	Lavinia D. Daniels,	3		
Dec. 7	Keziah Mason,	92		
“ 8	Frances Hunnewell,	84	6	
“ 16	David Hill,	78		

7 Persons over 70 years of age.

3 “ “ 80 “ “

1 “ “ 90 “ “

CHARLES C. SEWALL.

*Registrar.*

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MEDFIELD,  
FOR THE YEAR, 1875-6.



It will be remembered that so many difficulties presented themselves in the way of continuing the High School, at the beginning of the year, that the committee of last year recommended to the town its discontinuance. Acting upon this recommendation, the town, at their annual meeting in March, 1875, voted to appropriate for the schools the sum of Two thousand dollars, which was Five hundred dollars less than was raised for the same object the previous year. Accordingly when the present committee organized, they voted to discontinue the High School, for lack of funds, and the teacher was discharged at the close of the term.

For many years, with exceptions, difficulties have existed, which interfered with the usefulness of this school, and it seemed best, that for a season, it should be suspended. But it soon became manifest that, if this state of things continued, the town could ill afford to suffer the evils which would accrue. Carefully examining the condition of the treasury, it was ascertained that they could give the larger scholars a term of sixteen weeks under the care of a master, and it was so voted.

The next and more difficult step was to find the man who could satisfactorily fill the position. After many efforts and disappointments the present incumbent of the

## UPPER SCHOOL

was secured for this one term, to commence Sept. 6; his longer continuance to depend upon circumstances. Entering upon his duties on that day, it very soon became manifest that, as "Order is Heaven's first law," so was it to be in the school-room of Mr. Wm. E. Marshall. Committee's Note Book, "Sept. 9, good order." "Oct. 12, perfect order; good recitations." "Nov. 19, capital order; much pains taken to have them accurate." "Dec. 30, Examination; might improve much in reading; Physiology almost perfect; Geography just as good; Grammar not so well; Arithmetic very good."

It was an object of paramount importance with the Committee to secure for this school a teacher whose government should be supreme; and who, at the same time, should be able to gauge the capacity of his pupils so as wisely to direct their studies. In a school of such materials it is impossible so to adjust everything as to put each pupil where he will accomplish the most, without so multiplying the classes as to require an assistant teacher. There will always be exceptions, and it has been impossible to avoid them in this school. We think, however, that they have been as few as in the nature of the case could have been expected.

At the closing examination the reading was peculiarly unfortunate, owing in great measure to the selections made. And yet we have never found the reading in this school what it should be. The impression seems to prevail, somewhat, among older scholars, that "it will read itself," without any particular pains or preparation on their part. A good reader is rarely found; and tolerable readers none too numerous. Eminence in this department is the fruit of persevering pains taking. There might be as many good readers as singers with equal culture. The same vocal organs are called into action; put behind them the same will-power and who will say that the results will not be as satisfactory? In this fact, the lack of a *will* to do, must be located the cause of failures in almost any branch of study, as well as in the various departments of business life. Doubtless nature has endowed different persons with different degrees of mental capacity; but facts show wonderful results in such as are thought

to be somewhat wanting in this respect, when aroused to that degree where they are led to say "*I will.*" What some have done many others might do; so that in their case poor scholarship is their fault and not their misfortune. It is the earnest wish of those who supervise the schools, whether as teachers or committee, that parents would do what they can to inspire their children with this thought.

With the exception of reading, the Upper School closed its term of sixteen weeks, Dec. 30, to the entire satisfaction of the committee. And the question now arose, what shall we do with these scholars in the future? To put them into the Grammar School was altogether out of the question. That department is already too much crowded. The circumstances seemed to require the same number of schools as heretofore. Shall we dismiss Mr. Marshall, who has thus far proved himself master of the situation, and risk the substitution of some other teacher at a less cost to the town? or shall we retain him and present the case to the town at their next meeting? Your committee decided upon the latter course, and it remains for the town to say whether they decided wisely. We make our appeal to the town, and it is one founded upon a careful examination of existing facts, for an appropriation which shall be adequate to what are regarded the necessities of the schools. It seems to your committee that if there must be curtailment, it would more properly fall elsewhere than in the means for educating the young. But we are persuaded that there is no need of special pleading in this direction; and that, the facts being known, there will be a ready and cheerful response. After a careful estimate of the cost of the schools for some years past, we find that an appropriation of Two thousand, Three hundred dollars (\$2,300.00,) will be needed to continue them the ensuing year, and therefore recommend that this amount be appropriated for this object.

### THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The Spring Term opened under the care of Miss Susan J. Woods with pupils of such divers attainments, on account of the discontinuance of the High School, that it was found necessary to organize eighteen classes; too many, of course, for one teacher;



and the committee appointed, as an assistant, Miss Olive B. Young, who was also engaged to give instruction in vocal music. Both this school and the Primary received great benefit from her labors with them; and it would be an advantage to all the schools if the town could furnish a permanent teacher in this department.

From Note Book. "May 7, Grammar School, good order; classes interested; this school is doing splendidly." "July 2, entire satisfaction." Thus ends the first term. The succeeding terms have been in charge of the same teacher who has prosecuted her work laboriously, faithfully, successfully. Thoroughness of scholarship is aimed at, and in a good degree secured. The room occupied by this school is not sufficiently large for the present number of pupils; and there are others in town whose attainments would place them here. The crowded state of the room renders the teacher's work harder than it would otherwise be. Miss Young's services in connection with this school ceased at the close of the first term.

### THE CENTRE PRIMARY SCHOOL,

under the government and instruction of Miss Esther Emerson, has done all that could be expected of children of their tender age. It requires no small amount of skill and patience so to divide the time of these little workers as not to overtax and so injure both the body and the mind. While the books appropriate to this grade of schools, occupy a large part of their study hours, much use is also made of the crayon and pencil. Drawing is a branch of study required by law in our public schools, and the pencil should be put into the hand of the child as soon as he enters the primary department, not only that he may be able to use it skillfully when he becomes older, but as a means of recreation, to take the mind wholly off, for the time, from the more difficult studies. We notice in this school that the youngest pupils are required to read their lessons backwards. The practice is adopted for the purpose of securing a knowledge of the words at sight, so that they can be pronounced in any other connection as well as in this particular lesson. While the advantage of this method is apparent, the chief object should be to teach the children to read naturally, just as they would converse.

The signs of language must first be learned, and then the lesson should be so read as to give the sense. When a child has spelled out a sentence he should repeat it after the teacher until he can give the emphasis and all the inflections correctly. It is with reading as with singing. We are told that ninety-five per cent of children can be taught to sing, if they begin when very young. It cannot be less important to be able to read, but in order to do so intelligently, the process must commence in the primary school. And too much stress cannot be laid upon the importance of securing good readers here, before they are promoted to the next grade of schools. We are happy to know that the teacher of this school has correct views upon this most important subject.

#### NORTH SCHOOL.

Miss Sarah H. Wight continues faithfully toiling for the benefit of this school. She has given special attention to reading and spelling, and not without success. Particularly in the latter branch great improvement is manifest. In nearly all their studies many of the pupils have done well. The general studiousness of the school has been quite noticeable whenever we have visited it. It would be a great improvement, however, if the ambition, seen in some, could be communicated to the whole school. While some are eager to master every lesson, by others much valuable time is lost. No motive proves sufficient to arouse the mind to active effort. If the child would send thought forward twenty, thirty years, and see himself a man, unable to read intelligently, scarcely able to transact necessary business, unfit to fill any station of trust or honor, so many hours would hardly be spent in listless idleness.

While the fidelity of the teacher has been rewarded with marked success, there is not a little room for improvement on the part of some of the pupils, both in their deportment and their studies. Some are lingering upon the rudiments of science, whose age should give them a place in a high school, mastering the more difficult text books.

#### SOUTH SCHOOL.

During the First Term this school was under the care of Miss Ella F. Crocker. It was found to be laboring under the serious

disadvantage of having text books too hard for most of the scholars. A partial reform was effected by a change in the Reader used by the first class, substituting the "Intermediate" of the "Franklin Series," for the "Fifth"; and, later in the year, by removing from this and all the other schools in town, Miss Hall's Geographies, "Our World," Nos. 1 & 2, and restoring Warren's revised text books, an earlier edition of which was withdrawn many years ago. The former work was found so difficult that seldom if ever a good recitation could be secured from any of the classes. This was especially true of those who were studying "No. 2." The South School is so small, and the pupils generally so young, that it is difficult to excite much enthusiasm in study. The teacher tried various expedients to secure this end and not without success. Her instructions were not confined to text books, but a tax was levied upon other sources which yielded much valuable thought, and proved the means of no small benefit to the school.

One serious hinderance to the order of this school has long existed in the presence of one or two of the largest pupils who have very much tried the patience of their teachers. Their influence over associates has been bad. But notwithstanding this most of the pupils have been studious and made good improvement in their studies; and the order of the school never appeared better than at the closing examination.

The second and third terms have been in charge of Miss Ida C. Whiting, a recent graduate of the Normal school at So. Framingham, who proves a successful teacher. Ambitious to excel, in this her chosen profession, she is doing what she can to interest and profit her pupils. In order, however, to secure such discipline as was thought needful, it became the painful duty of the committee to remove one boy from the school, whose influence over others could no longer be tolerated. The school is now quiet, and enjoying a good degree of prosperity.

In what has been said we have given special emphasis to the importance of learning to be good readers. This stands first in importance in the catalogue of studies. But while we would impress this thought, we would not have other branches undervalued. We have been much pleased with the improvement in map drawing. This has been apparent in most of the schools,



but especially so in Mr. Marshall's department. Apgar's system has been adopted, which appears to us superior to any other with which we are familiar. Its introduction into Warren's text books was a leading motive for placing his series in the schools.

It gives us pleasure to find so much interest in the study of Physiology. By this means we become acquainted with the house we live in, and shall be better able to keep it in repair. The knowledge gained by the study should be carefully applied in practice. A sound mind in a healthy body is ready for vigorous and successful work.

An early inspection of the school buildings revealed the necessity of considerable repairs, which were made during the Summer vacation. The desks were badly cut, and otherwise marred, which offered a strong temptation for the further use of the boy's knife. These have been thoroughly repaired, and the pupils are made responsible, through their several teachers, for their preservation.

The ceiling in the North School house was so extensively broken as to require entirely new plastering. The register in the upper room of the Centre building has also been removed from directly in front of the teacher's platform to a more central position, so as to secure a more equal circulation of the heated air through the room.

This building, for many years, has been peculiarly exposed to take fire from the furnace. Last Winter the event occurred and only the most prompt action saved it from complete destruction.

Such alterations have been made that it is now regarded as safe.

Early in the year a promise was made which we now gladly hasten to fulfil.

#### SCHOLARS WHO HAVE BEEN NEITHER ABSENT NOR TARDY DURING THREE TERMS.

Lewis H. Guild, Orta E. Guild, Arthur W. Wight, Willard A. Newell, Carrie L. Wight, Emma L. Richards, Willie R. Marshall, Maude A. Curtis.

#### NOT ABSENT NOR TARDY DURING TWO TERMS.

Nellie M. Quiney, Arthur Guild, Allan A. Kingsbury, Lottie R. Mason, Mabel Braman, Jennie F. Wight, Jacob Clark, Eddie Babcock, Harry S. Mason, John P. Coltman, Affie Hanks.

## NOT ABSENT NOR TARDY DURING ONE TERM.

M. Addie Turner, Thomas Rourke, Emmie L. Noyes, Matilda Weiker, Loa E. Rolerson, Carrie E. Taber, Alice A. Tufts, Blanche E. Curtis, Herbert Babcock, Lizzie McFeat, Marcia Merrill, Nellie Parker, Sarah Sullivan, Abbie Marrion Gould, Horace G. Bussey, Willie Hewins, Gertie Hamant. Nettie Hamant absent one day.

During the year Laura Hewins has been absent two and one-half days; Ada Richardson absent one half day, and tardy once.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES C. SEWALL,  
JEREMIAH B. HALE,  
J. M. R. EATON,  
ALVIN M. CRANE,  
SAMUEL ELLIS,  
WM. F. GUILD,

*School Committee.*

## STATISTICS.

SCHOOLS.	TEACHERS.	TERMS.	Number of Scholars.	Average Attendance	Under 5 years of age	Over 15 years of age
Upper	Wm. E. Marshall,	2d Term 16 weeks.	39	34	0	22
		3d " 10* "	28	24	0	12
Gram- mar.	Miss S. J. Woods,	1st Term 14 weeks.	49	39	0	6
		2d " 11 "	42	36	0	1
		3d " 15* "	42	36	0	2
Centre Prim'y	Miss E. Emerson,	1st Term 14 weeks.	38	29	0	0
		2d " 11 "	30	25	1	0
		3d " 15* "	30	26	0	0
North Mixed	Miss S. H. Wight,	1st Term 14 weeks.	34	24	0	1
		2d " 11 "	34	29	0	2
		3d " 15* "	35	34	0	2
South Mixed	Miss E. F. Crocker Miss I. C. Whiting " " "	1st Term 14 weeks.	14	12	0	0
		2d " 11 "	15	14	0	0
		3d " 15* "	14	13	0	0

\* Yet in session.



